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MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Deputy Director for Science and Technology

SUBJECT: Disposition of [] Facilities
(SCOPE COTTON)

1. This memorandum submits a recommendation for your approval. Such recommendation is contained in paragraph 5.

25X1 2. The ultimate disposition that is made of the [] facilities will necessarily be influenced by the following considerations:

a. Selection of a storage site for the A-12 aircraft and its associated equipment and hardware.

b. The possible recall from storage of five A-12 aircraft at some future date.

25X1 c. Future needs among the Defense Community for [] support.

25X1 d. Support of TAGBOARD program, or other D/NRO programs, [] after 31 December 1967.

e. Future Agency utilization.

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NRO and USAF review(s) completed.

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25X1 3. Three storage locations were considered as likely possibilities during the initial discussions on OXCART phase-down. Currently, the options appear to be either [] or the Palmdale Facility; as storage at Davis-Monthan would introduce undesirable security aspects.

4. In weighing these two options, our reviews suggest strongly that long-term retention of [] facilities is neither desirable nor necessary. The following factors support this contention:

a. SCOPE COTTON Decision Number 1 issued by D/NRO advises TAGBOARD will be transferred from [] after December 1967.

25X1 b. Informal information indicates facilities exist elsewhere to provide services now obtained from []. This information is being verified. Otherwise, retention of [] and operating personnel would entail an annual cost of approximately [].

25X1 c. USAF elements have formulated a convincing argument in behalf of the Palmdale Facility based on availability of covered space, access to maintenance personnel in their IRAN program, the favorable security aspects (primarily, "blending" of aircraft in same environment), and a maintenance posture geared to rapid return of aircraft to an operational status. Although we are not familiar with the attendant costs, the logic in this proposal is substantial.

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d. Retention of [] for storage of A-12 aircraft would mean establishing a Security Alarm System [] Thereafter, [] would be required annually for base support, maintenance and security services. Costs incidental to preparing 10 A-12 aircraft for storage [] would approximate [] per year for cycle inspections of aircraft.

5. Storage of A-12 aircraft at Palmdale offers greater flexibility and provides for support of future contingencies, such as would not readily be available after December 1967 [] In consideration of these and related factors, we recommend [] no longer be considered a primary option for storage of the A-12 weapon system.

PAUL N. BACALIS
Brigadier General, USAF
Director of Special Activities

APPROVED

Acting Deputy Director for
Science and Technology

Date

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D/M/OSA/ [redacted] (8 April 1967)

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